

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CAIRO 10500 201359Z

50

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 OES-03 DLOS-04 MC-02 ACDA-05

PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PRS-01 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 OFA-01 SAM-01 /064 W  
----- 050651

R 201230Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7319

INFO CNO

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCEUR

COMSIXTHFLEET

DOD/ISA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI EG

SUBJECT: SUEZ CANAL TRANSITS BY NAVAL VESSELS

REF: STATE 245022

1. WHEN WITH FAHMY LAST NIGHT, I TOLD HIM ABOUT OUR REACTION TO THE MFA'S NOTE ON SUEZ CANAL TRANSITS BY NAVAL VESSELS. I RECALLED THAT I HAD EARLIER WORKED OUT AN ARRANGEMENT WITH GAMASY WHEREBY WE SEND INFORMAL LETTERS TO THE SCA, WITH A COPY TO THE MINISTRY OF WAR, ABOUT ANY EXPECTED US NAVAL VESSEL TRANSITS. GAMASY HAD INDICATED THIS WAS A PERFECTLY AGREEABLE ARRANGEMENT AND WE HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THAT BASIS EVER SINCE WITHOUT A PROBLEM.

2. I POINTED OUT WE COULD NOT AGREE TO PROVIDE SOME OF THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IN THE MFA NOTE. SPECIFICALLY, WE CANNOT AGREE TO INDICATING PORT, FUTURE DESTINATION OR GIVE A LENGTHY ADVANCE NOTICE. WE WILL, OF COURSE, PROVIDE  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CAIRO 10500 201359Z

AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE. SO FAR AS

EGYPTIAN REQUEST TO PROVIDE ETA AT STRAITS  
OF GUBAL, I NOTED THIS IS A LOS MATTER WHICH  
HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH SUEZ CANAL TRANSIT. TO  
DO SO WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH EXISTING RIGHTS  
OF NAVIGATION UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.

3. FAHMY INDICATED TOTAL UNAWARENESS OF SUCH A NOTE.  
WHO HAD SENT IT? I TOLD HIM I ASSUMED THAT,  
SINCE IT CAME FROM THE MFA, HE HAD SENT IT  
OR THAT IT WAS SENT WITH HIS AUTHORITY. HE DENIED  
EVER HAVING SEEN IT OR APPROVING IT. WHEN I  
EXPLAINED IT WAS A CIRCULAR NOTE, HE SURMISED  
MFA LEGAL DEPARTMENT MUST HAVE SENT IT,  
BUT PROBABLY AT THE BEHEST OF SOME INTERESTED  
MINISTRY LIKE THE MINISTRY OF WAR. BEFORE  
GIVING US ANY COMMENTS, HE FIRST WANTED TO CHECK  
WITH GAMASY TO ASCERTAIN WHAT MIGHT HAVE PROMPTED  
THE NOTE. HE WOULD THEN BE IN A BETTER POSITION TO  
TALK TO US ABOUT IT.

4. I TOLD HIM I SAW NO POINT IN SENDING A REPLY,  
BUT THAT WE WOULD CONTINUE OUR INFORMAL LETTERS  
AND PROVIDE AS MUCH OF THE REQUESTED INFORMATION  
AS POSSIBLE. IN FACT, WE HAD ALREADY BEGUN  
TO DO SO. I HOPED HE WOULD UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER,  
THAT THERE IS SOME INFORMATION WHICH WE CANNOT  
PROVIDE THEM AND THE REASONS FOR THIS.

5. COMMENT: FOR THE MOMENT THE BALL IS IN THE  
EGYPTIAN COURT. I DO NOT PROPOSE TO PRESS THEM FURTHER  
ON THIS MATTER, BUT WILL WAIT AND SEE IF THEY COME  
UP WITH SOME EXPLANATION FOR THE NOTE. IF THEY  
DO, AND DEPENDING ON WHAT THAT EXPLANATION  
MAY BE, WE CAN CONSIDER WHAT IF ANY FURTHER STEPS MAY BE  
DESIRABLE.

6. FOOTNOTE: AL-BAZ CALLED A FEW MINUTES AGO SAYING HE HAS BEEN  
UNABLE TO ASCERTAIN ON WHOSE AUTHORITY OR AT WHOSE BEHEST THE MFA  
NOTE WAS SENT. HE ASKED THAT WE SEND HIM A COPY. WE WILL DO SO.  
EILTS  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 CAIRO 10500 201359Z

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SUEZ CANAL, NAVAL SHIPS, SHIP MOVEMENTS, INFORMATION CONTROL  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 20 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** johnsorg  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975CAIRO10500  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750363-0830  
**From:** CAIRO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751038/aaaabiam.tel  
**Line Count:** 107  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION L  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 STATE 245022  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** johnsorg  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 30 JUL 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <24 DEC 2003 by johnsorg>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** SUEZ CANAL TRANSITS BY NAVAL VESSELS  
**TAGS:** MILI, EG  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006